

Shaffer Equipment/Arbuckle Creek Area

(Background Document for the State)

Issue: EPA is considering proposing the Shaffer Equipment/Arbuckle Creek Area Site for inclusion on the National Priority List (NPL).

Location: South of Old Minden Road, Fayette County, Minden, WV

Background:

- From the late 1940s until 1970, the site was used for deep coal mining. From 1970 to 1984, Shaffer Equipment Company (Shaffer) used the site to build substations for the local coal mining industry. Shaffer used oil containing PCBs in the electric transformers and other equipment to build those substations. Leaks, spills and dumping appear to have contributed to PCB contamination at the site. Earlier investigations have shown PCBs have migrated from the Shaffer Equipment site to Arbuckle Creek and have been deposited in residential yards during flood events.
- In 2017, citizen concerns and a request from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) brought EPA back to the site for further investigation and possible presence of residual PCB contamination. The EPA/WVDEP removal assessment showed evidence of trespassers at the Shaffer Equipment site. As a result of the removal assessment, it was determined that the cap needs repair in several spots.
- EPA's Removal Program is developing engineering plans for the repair of the landfill cap that was completed on the Shaffer Equipment Company Site in 2002. The Removal Program anticipates repairing the cap in the Fall of 2018.
- EPA, in conjunction with WVDEP, conducted several sampling events, in June and December 2017 and March and June 2018, to collect data to inform decisions necessary to perform an immediate response action or otherwise support the development of a Hazard Ranking System package (HRS). The **draft** HRS package supports proposal of the Site to the NPL.
- Recent sampling events showed PCB concentrations that would not trigger the need for a more immediate response; however, they indicate the need for additional evaluation due to the potential for health threats from long term exposure.

Messages:

- EPA is considering the Shaffer Equipment/Arbuckle Creek Area site for proposal on the National Priorities List (NPL) and is requesting the Governor's letter of support at this time. A letter from the Governor does not guarantee that the site will be proposed to the NPL; however, it is a major step in the process.
- EPA is currently working on two NPL Update Rules – one which will include sites to be proposed on the NPL, and one which will include sites to be finalized on the NPL. EPA expects to publish both Rules in September. The Rules are published in the Federal Register, with the proposed sites subject to a 60-day public comment period.
- EPA will continue to work with the state and the community to ensure they are informed about the status of the site.